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This Thesis is ascertained to be a copy of that
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AN

ESSAY
ON
DYSENTERY

BY

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OF

DELAWARE

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Dysentery, the subject of the present essay, is defined by Cullen to be a contagious syrexia with frequent mucous or bloody evacuations, accompanied with opipio or tenesmus, the alvine fees being for the most part retained. In giving to this disease a contagious character, Dr. Cullen has been followed by most of the British and Continental writers. This opinion however has been combatted by Professor Chapman and other American physicians, who assert, that ordinarily it is not capable of being propagated from one individual to another, and that this circumstance never takes place unless the disease assumes a Typhoid type. Independently of all authority, personal observation would induce us to question the accuracy of Cullen's definition in this respect. But with this exception his definition could not perhaps be amended.

Dysentery appears to be of ancient origin, having been known so far back as the days of Hippocrates. Although peculiar to no country, it is much more prevalent in some than in others. In certain districts of our own country it prevails to an alarming extent, and often with great fatality. In Hospitals, Jails, Camps, and other crowded receptacles, it frequently assumes a most malignant aspect. This disease may occur at any season of the year, but generally it makes its appearance about the end of Summer or beginning of Autumn. In some seasons sporadic cases of the disease are met with; in others it prevails epidemically. Dysentery sometimes commences with chills which is soon succeeded by fever, accompanied with griping, and an ineffectual desire to go to stool.

But perhaps more frequently the topical affection appears without being preceded by rigour or chillness; and in very many instances there is little or no febrile action. Sometimes the disease is attended by flatulence, nausea and vomiting. The discharges though frequent, are small in quantity and of an unctuous appearance, consisting for the most part of slime or mucus mixed with blood, though not infrequently they are purely sanguineous, and unaccompanied by a faecal smell. Those small undulated masses, so commonly noticed by authors under the term Scybala, are of very unusual occurrence. If the disease be not arrested, all of the symptoms become aggravated. The countenance assumes a peculiarly distressed appearance, the skin

Rapidly sinks, the extremities become cold, hiccup supervenes, with other symptoms which are usually the precursors of a fatal catastrophe. But when the disease is about to have a favourable termination, the pulse becomes softer, a moisture appears on the surface, the stools are less frequent, and more copious and natural, accompanied by an alleviation of the torments and tenesmus.

Dysentery, as has already been intimated, may sometimes though very rarely, be propagated by contagion. Most generally, however, it is produced by those causes which determine to the bowels, by checked perspiration. Occasionally, it is brought on by acrid and indigestible articles taken into the Stomach.

the birds of this year
are very tame, and
are seen within the
same vicinity of water
as last year. A Mallard
was seen on the 1st, and
a number of them were
seen flying over the water
and on the land. A pair
of Mallards were seen
on the 2d, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 3d. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 4th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 5th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 6th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 7th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 8th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 9th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 10th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 11th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 12th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 13th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 14th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 15th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 16th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 17th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 18th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 19th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 20th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 21st. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 22nd, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 23rd. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 24th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 25th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 26th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 27th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 28th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 29th. A pair of
Geese were seen on
the 30th, and a pair
of Geese were seen on
the 31st.

When the disease prevails epidemically, it then, like all other epidemics, has an æro-terrestrial origin.

X

With regard to the Pathology of dysentery, it is pretty well ascertained that there is always more or less inflammation of the Mucous Membrane of the large intestines, now and then extending to the small, and even to the Stomach. This inflammation, when mild, produces that increased Mucous discharge, so common to the inflammation of all Mucous Membranes; but when excessive, it has a strong tendency to terminate in gangrene.

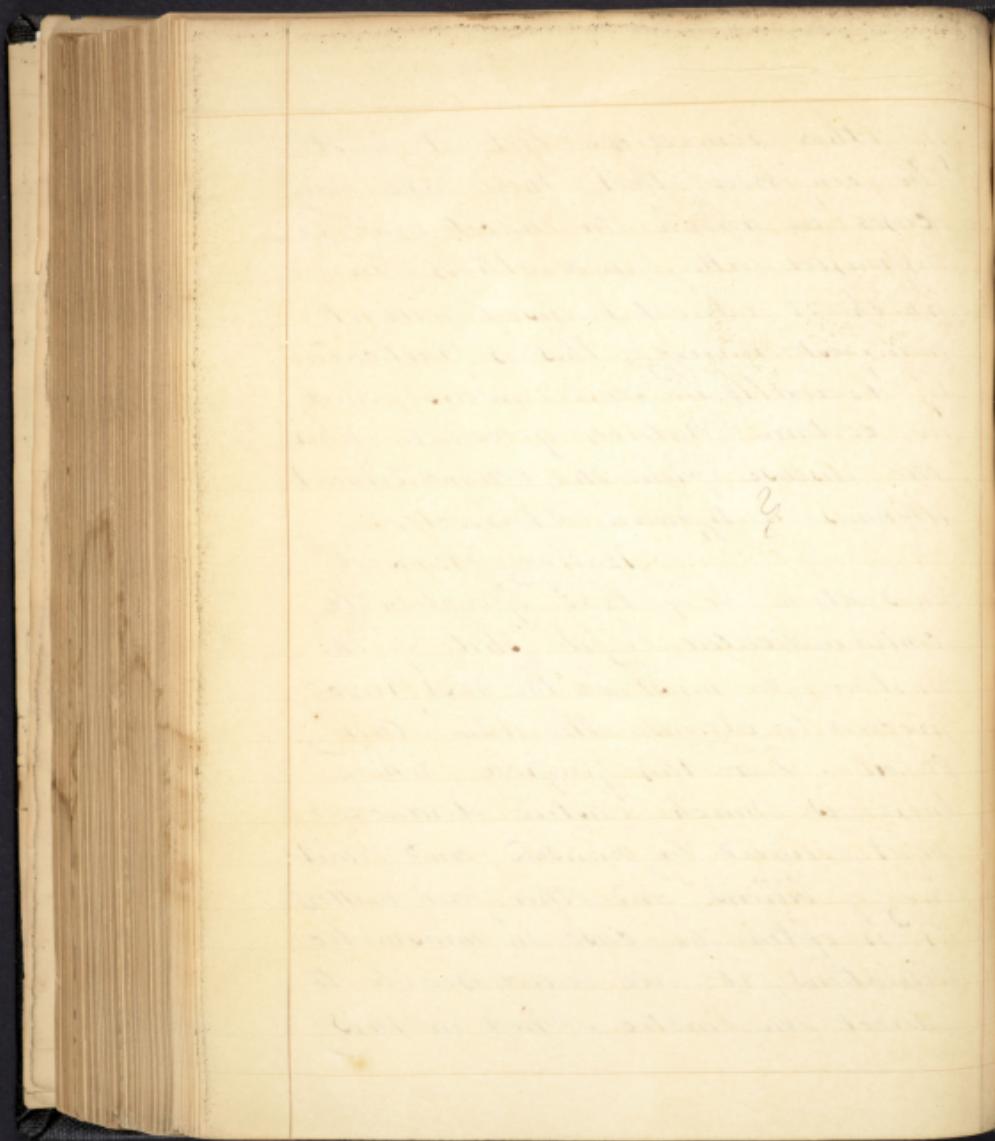
In the treatment of dysentery, much has been said about the propriety of Venesection. Taught by dissection

all I know well
in the southern part
of the continent. Now we
are at Ushuaia, Comodoro
Rivadavia, and all the rest
of the southern part of
Argentina and Chile are
well known to me. I have
had the pleasure of meeting
a number of the
best naturalists in the world
and I consider it a privilege
to be in the company of such
men.

the nature of the disease, we
should not hesitate about using
the lancet, where there is a hard
full pulse, and other symptoms
indicative of an inflammatory di-
athesis. And, even under these
circumstances, little or no benefit
will usually be derived, unless
the quantity of blood abstracted
be very considerable. For will a
single bleeding, however copious,
always suffice; so long as the
symptoms demanding it continue,
it may be repeated without any
apprehension of injurious consequences.
When directed by a sound and
discriminating judgment, bleeding
relieves the spasmodic action
of the bowels, abates inflammation,
exchanges a hot dry surface for
a moist one, and awakens the sus-
ceptibility of the system to the impression

of other remedies. Yet it must be confessed that there are many cases in which the lancet may be dispensed with, and others in which it cannot be used without manifest injury; this is particularly observable in some seasons, and in certain districts of country where the disease from the commencement assumes a typhoid character.

Having premised venesection, or if that operation be contra-indicated by the state of the system, we must in the next place proceed to cleanse the alimentary canal. For this purpose, where there is much austre abatement, coincid by nausea, and vomiting of bilious, and other foul matter as is often the case in miasmatic situations, it will be advisable to direct an emetic. And in this



instance *specacanthia* is perhaps preferable to the antimonial preparations. Though we are aware that the emetic tartar, James' powder, and the nitrum antimonii eratum, are recommended by practitioners of no little eminence. With respect to the latter article, which was introduced into regular practice by the classic D^r. Young and afterward so highly eulogised by Dr. John Pringle, we have never seen it given with a view to its emetic operation. But when exhibited in small doses, and in the early stage of the disease, we have repeatedly witnessed the most striking benefit from it, especially in that form of the disease, accompanied by considerable sanguineous discharges. In these cases, it is

Sometimes acts as a cathartic, bringing away from the bowels natural dejections; at other times it arrests the disease without any sensible operation.

Cathartics

have been consecrated to the treatment of desentery, by the unanimous consent of practitioners in every section of the world. Still, however, some difference of opinion prevails as to the relative efficacy of the articles composing this class. Calomel is perhaps the most suitable purgative to commence with. But in order to obtain its full effect, judging from personal observation I should say, it must be given in large doses; and it is one of those medicines whose cathar-

tic operation is not in a ratio
proportionate to an increase
of the ordinary dose we need
not be apprehensive of its pro-
ducing Hypercathartis. More
than once have I been surpris-
ed at the salutary impression
which twenty grains of Calomel
made on the disease, when
comparatively little benefit was
produced by half that quanti-
ty. The bowels being operated
on by means of the Mercurial
Preparation just mentioned, we
may have recourse to some of
the other Medicines ~~of the~~
~~other Medicines~~ of the same
class, especially Castor Oil and
Epsom Salts, or what perhaps
answers better, the latter article
in combination with small portions
of tartarized antimony with or

des valle de la marquesa
y en la parte de la marquesa
se han visto numerosos
y variados tipos de
fauna terrestre que incluye
varias especies de plantas
y animales que no se
encuentran en el resto de
los valles y que se han
descubierto en la marquesa
y en la parte de la marquesa
se han visto numerosos
y variados tipos de
fauna terrestre que incluye
varias especies de plantas
y animales que no se
encuentran en el resto de

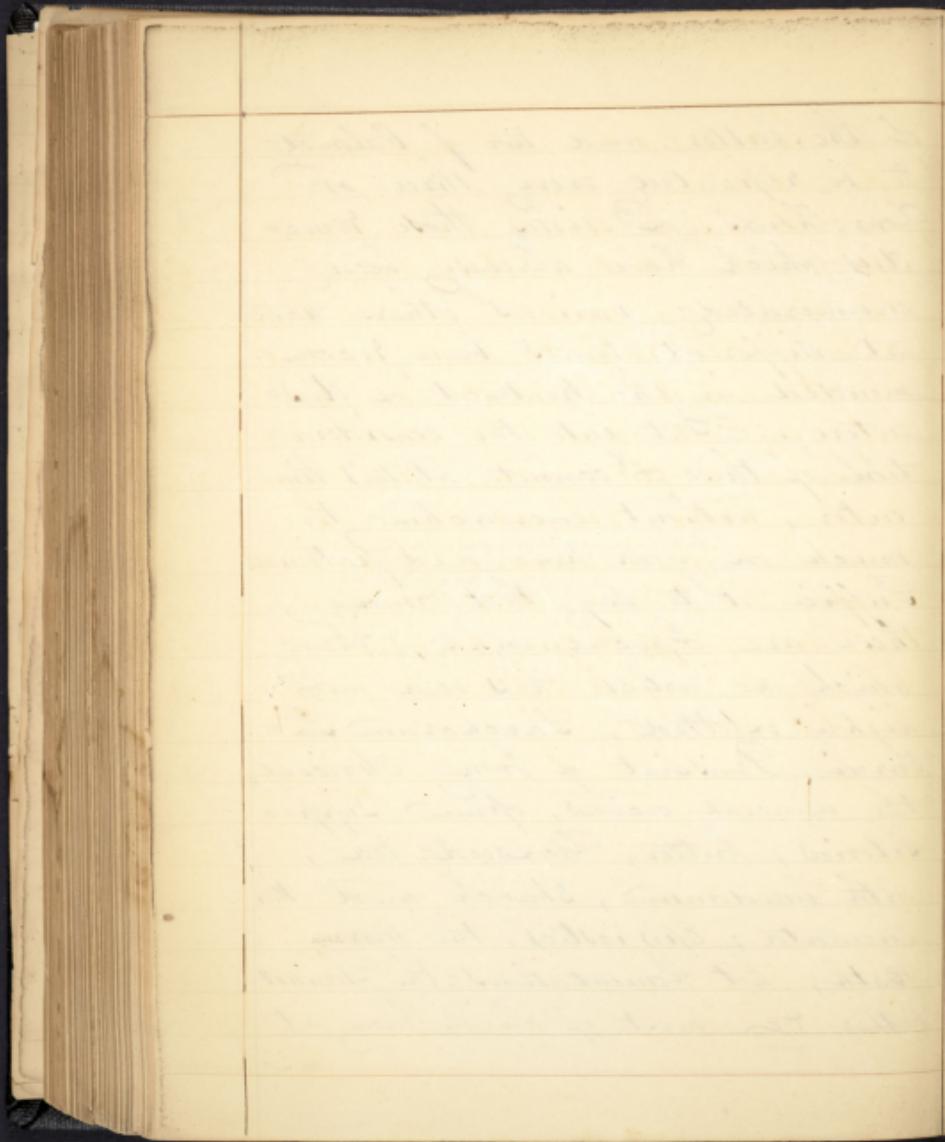
without a few drops of laudanum, according to the circumstances of the case.

In consequence of the severe griping and spasmodic irritation, which must be employed early in dentition. Nevertheless, if there be much inflammatory action, its use is contraindicated, until this action is in some measure subdued by direct depletion. Although the use of this remedy is discountenanced and condemned by the high authority of Cullen, we have such a mass of evidence in its favor, that we must consider his objection to it founded on views purely hypothetical. So far from laboring a constriction of the colon, opiate by relieving the spasmodic action, not unfrequently brings away sterco-^{rum}ous discharges. And on the same

principle. When joined with purgatives, they promote their operation. But Opium is commonly given in combination with some of those articles which determine to the surface. Dover's powder, one of the preparations of this description is often employed, and with the most decided utility. In order however to make a permanent impression on the disease, it must be repeated every four or six hours, and sometimes oftener. Occasionally also, it may be adviseable to add to Dover's powder a portion of Calomel.

Another prescription which may be employed with unequivocal advantage, is a combination of Opium, Calomel, and Specumena, in the proportion of half a grain of the former, one

of the latter, and two of Calomel
to be repeated every three or
four hours. Besides those reme-
dies which have already been
enumerated, various others have
at different times been recom-
mended in the treatment of dys-
entery. But into the considera-
tion of these I cannot, at this time
enter, without encroaching too
much on your time, and fatiguing
Suffice it to say that among
these are Specacuanha, than
which no article has been more
highly extolled, Saccharum la-
turni, Prussiat of Iron, Charcoal
the mineral acids, opium, Suppo-
sitories, butter, Flaxseed tea,
with Laudanum, Starch and other
cucumata; Episiotics, the warm
Bath, hot fomentations, the Flannel
roller &c most of which may, at



times be resorted to, with unequivocal
advantage.

As yet we have said nothing
respecting the diet in Dysentery. There
being much irritation and inflam-
mation, the patient must evidently
be restricted to the most bland
articles, and even they should be
given in a fluid form. Rice Water,
Barley Water, Rennet Whey, the
mucilages of Agave and Acalypha,
Slippery Elm, Sage, Ann Root, Figs
&c. are of that nature and will be
found to afford sufficient nourish-
ment.

